WebBuyer

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

BY KEVIN SAVETZ

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<Tech Shopping

aberdeeninc.com

Targeting savvy consumers, **Aberdeen** features extensive specs on a wide variety of peripherals and accessories. The catalog of motherboards spans nine major manufacturers and includes a side-by-side comparison tool.

accessmicro.com

Access Micro stocks tons of items ranging from broadband routers to complete desktop systems. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors, and the clearance area offers returned items and old inventory for below wholesale cost.

allcables.com

Plug it in and hook it up at **AllCables,** which sells fiber-optic cables, IEEE 1394 (FireWire) cables, printer cables, power cables—cables of every description. Most include a lifetime replacement warranty.

allstarshop.com

The **Allstar Microelectronics** catalog of PC accessories includes graphics cards, motherboards, and peripherals. The selection in some categories is modest, but prices are reasonable, and you'll find an ample amount of information about each product.

batteriesdirect.com

Empower yourself! ***Batteries Direct*** sells batteries for laptops, camcorders, and portable phones, as well as AC adapters for portable computers. If the kids' toys are running on empty, check out the selection of rechargeable nickel-metal-hydride batteries in sizes ranging from AAA to D.

blackbox.com

Get connected! Specializing in network products, **Black Box's** extensive catalog of storage, cabling, and surge-protection products—plus many other connectivity accessories—can be viewed online or off.

buy.com

Buy.com's vast million-product inventory includes computer hardware, software, electronics, video games, books, music, and DVDs. Shoppers will find informative pages that make choosing the right peripheral painless.

buycase.com

Banish the boring beige box forever! **Colorcase** offers more than 60 unusual computer cases, including translucent-plastic, aluminum, mirrored, and "character" cases. (Be sure to check out the doggy- and kitty-shaped cases.)

buydig.com

A site for shovels and trowels? No, **BuyDig.Com** offers digital tools and gadgets, including digital cameras, fax machines, PDAs, DVD players, and video-capture devices.

www.buyuptime.com

BuyUptime.com's protection and security inventory includes uninterruptible power supplies and accessories, batteries, and power-distribution units. The selection ranges from simple surge protectors to industrial transformers.

cablemax.com

CableMax will get you more wired than a double-strength espresso. The company manufactures and sells cables of all types. In addition to computer and bulk cable, the site

FEBRUARY

COMPUTER SHOPPER site OF THE month

etronics.com

There's something for everyone with a love for gizmos and gadgets at **Etronics.** Audiophiles will appreciate the huge selection of home, car, and personal-audio devices. Shutterbugs will find a mammoth array of cameras, film, and photo accessories in the Digital Imaging area. And Etronics' Home Theater section will tempt movie mavens with televisions, DVD players, and surround-sound setups.

The site's online catalog goes beyond the call of duty by serving up niche products. You'll find a selection of DJ gear, as well as car electronics items such as radar detectors, GPS navigation systems, and CB radios. Home-office equipment, appliances, and personal-care products round out the selection.

The well-organized site is a pleasure to navigate. One standout section, the easily searchable Battery Central, makes it easy to track down portable power for your laptop, camcorder, or cell phone. The Rebate Center is also handy, with a concise listing of special incentives from manufacturers. Best of all, however, is the return policy. If it turns out that your shiny new gadget isn't everything you hoped for, send it back—Etronics offers a 30-day money-back guarantee, with no restocking fees.

sells networking products, adapters, tools, and test equipment.

cablestogo.com

Cables To Go sells every conceivable cable you might need for your PC, from standard SCSI to esoteric system-specific cables. You'll also find networking products, bulk cable, tools, and test equipment. You might even get lucky and snatch up what you need at a bargain price in the site's closeout section.

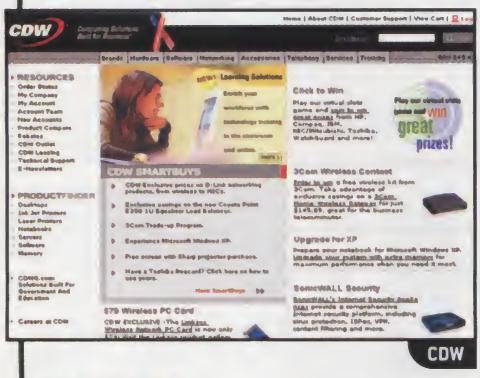
Cables To Go

www.cd-recordable.com

The U.S-owned and -based **CD-Recordable Factory Store** actually manufactures the discs it sells. This easy-to-navigate site stocks a massive variety of CD-R discs, including colorless and tinted media, plus disc-packaging and -storage accessories.

cdw.com

CDW offers an enormous array of hardware and software for business. Create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories, and search out dollar-saving deals on the rebates-and-coupons page.



CDW

circotech.com

If a beautiful PC case stops you in your tracks, visit **Circo Technology,** which offers a large selection of attractive and functional cases. For the maximum in upgradability, check out the roomy "cube" cases.

compgeeks.com

Revenge of the nerds, indeed! Shop the **Computer Geeks Discount Outlet** for new, discontinued, and refurbished computer gear. It's a trove for the do-it-yourselfer piecing together a desktop system.

The site features low prices and complete specs on every product.

compusa.com

The well-organized **CompUSA** rounds out the usual selection of PC hardware, peripherals, and accessories with areas devoted to electronics and gadgets. The site's new Game Fixx arm specializes in PC and console games.

computers4sure.com

In the 19 well-stocked departments at **Computers-4Sure.com** you'll find a broad spectrum of products, including networking equipment, PDAs, and scanners. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Clearance pages.

computersurplusoutlet.com

You're just crazy enough to build your own desktop system, aren't you? Then you'll feel right at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** where you'll find closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items. You might even stumble on an assembly-required Pentium system for less than $100.

crucial.com

One of the largest providers of memory upgrades on the Web, **Crucial Technology** offers free shipping on CompactFlash cards and RAM for 11,000 computer systems. The company backs its memory with a lifetime warranty.

c-source.com

The catalog at decade-old **CompSource** includes a full range of PC products—nearly 200,000 in all. The company promises same-day shipping, but watch out for the 15 percent fee on returns.

dalco.com

Dalco Electronics stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. If you're a bargain hunter, start with the specials found on the home page. You'll also find a helpful motherboard/CPU and memory configurator.

dartek.com

Dartek sells a remarkable selection of hardware, software, networking equipment, and office furniture. Well-designed features include printable spec sheets, customers' product ratings, a product-watch feature, and a frequent-buyers' club.

directron.com

Specializing in computer peripherals, **Directron.com** offers low prices on a wide variety of name-brand and OEM products. Most items include a 30-day guarantee, and any order earns you the right to pick through the Free Stuff bin. Savvy savers will appreciate the Clearance area, as well as frequent-customer and volume-purchasing discounts.

ecost.com

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full range of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use

SITE REVIEWS

systems, peripherals, accessories, and applications. The Bargain Countdown will tempt you with time-limited deals.

euclidcomputers.com

Euclid Computers stocks laptops from eight manufacturers, PDAs from seven, and a smattering of wireless accessories and GPS receivers. Use the filter tool to hone your laptop choice by CPU speed, screen size, and weight.

flexguard.com

Philadelphia Security Products will make sure your PC stays right where it belongs—on your desk. The site sells a variety of lock and cable kits to protect your notebook or desktop computer against thieves.

www.freecolorprinters.com

It's not a scam—"qualified organizations" can indeed apply for free color printers at **FreeColorPrinters,** a subsidiary of Xerox. You'll need to commit to printing a certain number of pages per month and buy your supplies directly from Xerox. See the site for details.

fwdepot.com

Catering to both Mac and PC users, **FireWire Depot** sells IEEE 1394 drives, cables, repeaters, and upgrade cards. You can buy an empty enclosure, then populate it with your own drive—online assembly instructions show you how.

googlegear.com

Targeting corporations and smaller businesses, **Googlegear** sells a tempting selection of PC systems, hardware, and software. Check out the savings in the Open Box Shop and the miserly $1 Marketplace.

Handspring

handspring.com

Get a **Handspring** PDA direct from the source. The sleek-looking site sells Visor handhelds, add-on modules, accessories, and software.

igo.com

iGo bills itself as a "mobile technology outfitter." Use the site to outfit your cell phone, notebook, or PDA with chargers, batteries, and other

necessary accessories. The iGo Alerts feature delivers free customized news to your portable device.

inkfarm.com

We're not sure what type of farm printer ink comes from, but we do know that **Inkfarm.com** sells ink and toner with flat-rate shipping. Go with "official" OEM ink or opt to save big bucks with aftermarket ink that often costs about half the price.

www.ink4art.com

Sure, you'll find the usual selection of inkjet cartridges, but **Ink4Art** also sells distinctive goodies that will make your printer happy. Offerings include fluorescent ink cartridges, unusual paper, and project kits for printing on T-shirts and mouse pads.

insight.com

With more than 110,000 items for sale, **Insight** offers an impressive catalog of hardware and software. Customized sites are available for shoppers in the United States, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

jandr.com

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World,** the New York City-based superstore famed for its selection and, ahem, "brusque" service. Avoid the attitude with this online version, which specializes in cameras, both digital and traditional film models.

kidstation.com

The family computer shouldn't be a pain for children to use. The main attractions at **Kidstation** are ergonomic mice, keyboards, and computer furniture designed with the little ones in mind. But you'll also find fun and educational kid-centric software.

lanblvd.com

Wrestling with your old router? Network card not working? **LanBlvd.com** specializes in networking products. You'll find hubs, routers, interface cards, and wireless stations, along with other essentials for your LAN.

laptoptravel.com

Laptop Travel is road-warrior heaven! The site sells portable-computing and international-travel gear, including electrical adapters, modem converters/couplers, and security accessories. You'll find traditional and "camouflaged" laptop carrying cases, laptop RAM, and storage add-ons.

www.mediastore.com

Burn, label, and store discs with a little help from **MediaStore.** The site sells CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, and DVD-RW discs, as well as drives, software, labelers, and media-packaging material. If burning audio CDs is your thing, visit the site's MP3 section.

megahaus.com

MegaHaus' catalog of "everything high-tech" offers *a full spectrum of products*, from mice to monitors. The site specializes in storage, including hard drives, RAID solutions, and CD recorders.

mei-microcenter.com

MEI-Micro Center offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, eMachines, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. You'll also find a decent selection of peripherals. Rummage through the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

memman.com

Desktop and laptop memory sold at **Memory Man** carries a lifetime warranty, and the site's reference guide offers RAM-configuration info for all brand-name computers.

memory4less.com

Memory4Less.com offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM. Don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera? The site will clue you in.

mobileplanet.com

MobilePlanet is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys for mobile professionals. The selection includes notebooks, PDAs, wireless communication products, and travel-size printers and scanners.

motherboardexpress.com

Don't be overwhelmed by the array of more than 100 boards at **Motherboard Express.** The site's search engine will filter the choices by processor type, onboard controller, chipset, case type, or number of CPUs.

SITE REVIEWS

Home Networking Products and Resources

cable-dsl.home.att.net

The **Navas Cable Modem/DSL Tuning Guide** offers impartial recommendations of hardware and software for sharing your Internet connection between computers. This thorough document covers just about every operating system and networking technology you can name.

homepcnetwork.com

If you're baffled by networking jargon and don't know where to begin, start here. **HomePCnetwork** explains how to set up a simple home network. Beginners can choose topics such as "connect my laptop to my PC" or "connect my two PCs as cheaply as possible." The hardware reviews provide analysis for shoppers with a more technical bent.

homepna.com

The focused and informative **HomePNA.com** is dedicated to HomePNA, a type of network that moves data over your household phone lines. You'll find plenty of reviews of HomePNA products and links to tutorials.

personalhomenetworks.com

Personal Home Networks sells the hardware you need to get your PCs talking in no time. The selection includes hubs, switches, cable/DSL modems, and wireless and wired routers. Choose an Easy Installation Kit for simple, no-fuss hookups.

practicallynetworked.com

Practically Networked will help you through every step of setting up and securing your home network. Whether your network will be wired or wireless, this site shows you how to share files and an Internet connection among your machines.

technocopia.com/homenetwork.html

Need to know how to install a CAT-5 Ethernet cable, or how to set up a home network for gaming? **Technocopia's** Home Networking guide has the answers, along with reviews of inexpensive networking hardware.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BILL RIESER

SITE REVIEWS

motherboards.com

In addition to a wide selection of motherboards with copious technical specs on each, **Motherboards.com** serves up honest reviews from picky system shoppers like you. If you order a motherboard and CPU together, the company will configure and test them for you.

monitorexpress.com

Monitor Express sells 500 models of new monitors, plus money-saving refurbished ones. The catalog also includes monitor cables, video adapters, and screen filters.

monitoroutlet.com

From inexpensive 14-inchers to elegant and pricey flat-panel LCDs, **Monitor Outlet** proffers a wide range of displays. The site sells units from 24 manufacturers, plus specialty monitors such as touch screens, wide-aspect-ratio units, and projectors.

newegg.com

You won't have to shell out big bucks or scramble for hardware at **NewEgg.com**. Peck at the site's listings of new products and top sellers, then take a crack at the specials. Order carefully—the 15 percent restocking fee might make you squawk.

Mac Hardware and Software

club-mac.com

Join the club! **ClubMac's** selection of Macintosh hardware, peripherals, and software is tough to beat. Click the tabs to zoom in on USB or IEEE 1394 (FireWire) add-ons, then pick your Mac model from the menu for a list of compatible RAM. The site's technical library serves up self-help.

dealmac.com

Dealmac is an independent price-comparison site that seeks out the lowest prices on Mac hardware, software, and gadgets. Peek into the Basement for super deals on out-of-warranty products.

macmall.com

MacMall is a vast and easy-to-browse catalog of Apple products. Look in the Mac Professionals section for 800 products for publishing, Web development, and graphics pros. The Built for Mac OS X section highlights software compatible with Apple's shiny new operating system.

macresq.com

Looking for an inexpensive Mac for school or work? Visit **Mac-Res-Q,** an independent Apple reseller with a wide variety of refurbished hardware and new software. A weekly e-mail update will keep you abreast of new products, price reductions, and specials.

maczone.com

In business for 16 years, **Mac Zone** sells an incredible collection of new Macintosh hardware, accessories, and software. Special features include a rebate center and information about Apple Instant Loans.

powermax.com

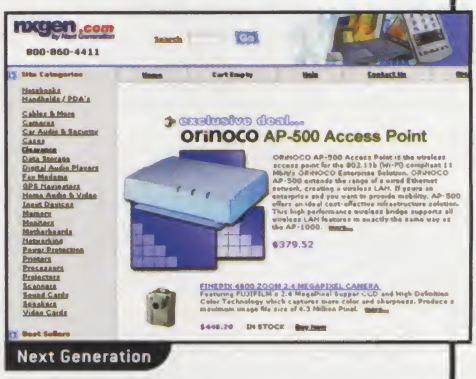
PowerMax Computers sells brand-new, custom-configured Macintoshes, as well as preowned systems. The company will even take your old Mac in trade toward a new one. Peripherals and software round out the selection.

smalldog.com

Small Dog Electronics sells new, used, and refurbished Macintosh computers and accessories. The computer selection consists primarily of speedy G4 systems and iMacs, but budget shoppers will also find very inexpensive older models.

store.apple.com

Apple Computer's well-designed site allows you to custom-configure any Macintosh computer, and offers a wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories. For frequent customers, the one-click ordering feature makes purchases simple.



nxgen.com

Next Generation's Web site is densely packed with prebuilt computers and peripherals ranging from cables to graphics cards. The selection is huge, and the site provides full specs and plenty of details about each product.

1coolpc.com

A cool computer is a happy computer. **1CoolPC** specializes in fans, heat sinks, and other cooling devices for your CPU, graphics card, monitor, hard drive, and other components that tend to swelter.

outpost.com

Outpost.com sells around 170,000 products—a full range of computer hardware, plus cameras, electronics, and innovative specialty products from partner companies.

palmgear.com

Users of handhelds will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial programs downloadable from **PalmGear.com.** You can buy PDA hardware and accessories, or sign up for an e-mailing list to receive information about new software, news, and user tips.

pccasegear.com

Trick out your computer at **PC Case Gear,** an unusual site for serious PC enthusiasts. You can pick up a window kit that will let you see inside your PC case. Couple that with a neon- or cathode-light kit to make your machine glow from the inside.

pcconnection.com

PC Connection offers bargains on a colossal variety of PC and Macintosh products. Smart Selectors ease the search process for those looking for turnkey systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

www.pcliquidator.com

The getting's good at **PC Liquidator,** a site that offers clearance, refurbished, and overstocked hardware and software. The inventory is always changing and usually

inexpensive. You can find many hardware choices for under $10—and software for 99 cents.

pcmall.com

Shoppers at **PC Mall** receive free lifetime technical support on the site's vast selection of computers, hardware, and software. The site's business-solutions forum offers corporate leasing and volume pricing. Apple-heads can find all their favorite Macintosh products at the **Mac Mall** sister site ***(www.macmall.com)***.

PC Mall

pcnation.com

You'll pledge allegiance to **PCNation** after seeing its catalog of 70,000 hardware, software, and networking products. The home page offers links to "best buys" and to products with special rebates.

pczone.com

PC Zone stocks an impressive selection of all things PC. You'll find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Electronics Zone.** Printable rebate coupons can save you some cash.

ZONES
'Tis the Season of Savings
SAVE BIG on select printers!
Capture the holiday moments in high resolution!
Zones Holiday Specials! Gifts for everyone!
IT BEST SELLERS
PC Zone

www.pdaorder.com

PDAOrder sells personal digital assistants preloaded with the software you need. Bundles include programs for physicians, professionals, financial mavens, and college students. The site also offers reviews, feature articles, and how-to guides.

www.sg3d.com

Sunway Graphics specializes in PC graphics cards, offering a wide selection of powerful 3D accelerators. You'll also see a smaller selection of other graphics products: TV-tuner cards, videoconferencing equipment, and video-capture cards.

www.sharbor.com

Safe Harbor specializes in digital video, animation, graphics, and multimedia tools. The selection includes video workstations, video-capture cards, and software for music and video professionals.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The price-drop-alerts feature will send you e-mail when the cost of a coveted gadget falls. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

ssdonline.com

At **State Street Direct,** shoppers will discover a huge selection of computers and imaging products. Digital-camera shoppers will find many items of interest, including customized comparison charts.

staples.com

Yeah, they've got that. **Staples'** Web site offers a liberal price-matching policy on computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized shopping lists. The company can occasionally take its time shipping items out to you, though, so beware.

store.palm.com

Put a personal digital assistant in the palm of your hand. Here's where **Palm** sells its popular PDAs, plus software, accessories, and replacement parts. Reconditioned and discontinued models are available at a significant discount.

superwarehouse.com

SuperWarehouse.com stocks printers, monitors, hard drives, scanners, digital cameras, and laptops. The site's selection of printers is particularly large, and even includes plotters, dot matrix units, and other special-use printers.

suppliesusa.com

Feed your PC's ravenous appetite for media, ink, and other everyday consumables at **Suppliesusa.com,** a distributor of brand-name printer and computer supplies. The catalog includes data-storage supplies, printer accessories, papers, and film.

surpluscomputers.com

Surplus Computers buys and sells corporate excess, overstock, and slightly obsolete PC hardware and software. The hardware choices include desktops, notebooks, and computer parts. The software selection includes operating systems and office suites.

tccomputers.com

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems and peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards; buyers can have boards and processors preinstalled and tested without paying extra.

SITE REVIEWS

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet

tcwo.com

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet offers only a small selection of computer products. You may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives, but the prices are fantastic.

techstore.com

TechStore.com offers hardware in dozens of categories and highlights monthly top sellers. The site also sells software, ranging from productivity suites to children's titles.

thenerds.net

With no misgivings about the tech-savvy of its company or customers, **TheNerds.net** offers 60,000 computer products, ranging from cables and connectors to graphics cards, at its fast and friendly site. The liberal 30-day return policy will protect you from getting stuck with the wrong product.

tigerdirect.com

TigerDirect's site offers 50,000 products, including computers from Compaq, Gateway, and IBM. Up for a little adventure? Order a build-it-yourself custom PC kit, and let the fun begin!

triocomputers.com

TrioComputers.com offers an impressive array of computer accessories and configure-your-own PCs. Read the site's 10-step tutorial on building your own PC to see if you're up to the challenge.

tristatecomputer.com

You'll have three times the fun at **Tri-State Camera and Computer.** The selection includes digital and analog cameras, computer peripherals, and home/office necessities, all with a money-back guarantee.

warehouse.com

The three "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware, Mac products, and datacomm components. The site accepts corporate, educational, and government accounts, and offers business leases on several of its products.

Direct PC Vendors

adamant.com

Adamant Computers' desktop and notebook systems are backed by a three-year warranty and lifetime technical support. Systems are highly configurable, including your choice of AMD and Intel processors.

www.alienware.com

Alienware can build you a gamer's dream system, high-performance workstation, or desktop video machine. System cases are available in a rainbow of out-of-this-world colors.

buyabs.com

Exceptional customer support on custom-configured desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS Computer Technologies.** All systems include a 30-day money-back guarantee, and some are available with Linux preinstalled.

buy-atlas.com

Atlas Micro offers desktop PCs built around Pentium, Celeron, and AMD processors. Buyers can use drop-down menus to create a custom configuration and are protected by a reasonable 30-day return policy.

compaq.com

Three arms of **Compaq Computer's** site offer computers for everyone. See the Compaq AtHome division ***(athome.compaq.com)*** for home and home-office systems, DirectPlus ***(www.directplus.compaq.com)*** for business PCs and servers, or the Compaq Factory Outlet Superstore ***(www.compaqfactoryoutlet.com)*** for big bargains.

Online Coupons and Deals

amazing-bargains.com

The coupon codes at **Amazing-Bargains.com** will shave dollars off the bottom line at more than 100 online merchants. Visit the site for daily specials, a list of popular bargains, and info about the newest deals all over the Web. Newsletters bring savings news to your mailbox.

dailyedeals.com

The coupon pages at **DailyeDeals** present a cornucopia of codes that can save you $5 to $50 at major online retailers. The First Time area links to sites with substantial discounts to first-time customers.

dealchecker.com

You'll find lots of coupon codes at **DealChecker,** but don't miss out on the site's tips for savvy shoppers. These articles cover topics such as using one-time credit-card numbers and "taking the bait out of rebates."

dealnews.com

Deal yourself in! Updated daily, **Dealnews** is a fantastic buyer's guide that reports on low-price specials in Web stores. Sister site **Dealram** shows the sites offering the best prices on computer memory.

fatwallet.com

FatWallet.com is an elegant, comprehensive trove of coupon codes. Use them to save up to 40 percent at hundreds of online merchants. In the Deals of the Day section, you'll find pointers to noteworthy specials for Web buyers.

freebitz.com

Web shopping doesn't have to mean spending money. **FreeBitz** is an index of sites that offer products or information for free, such as *pet-food samples, CD-ROMs,* and magazine subscriptions. There's plenty of good stuff, but beware of scams and spam.

valpak.com

Type your ZIP code, and **ValPak** will show coupons that you can use at local brick-and-mortar merchants. When you find a deal you can't resist, print the coupon and go.

SITE REVIEWS

cyberpowerinc.com

Each **CyberPower** PC includes a three-year warranty and 30-day money-back guarantee. The site's service area includes downloadable drivers and lifetime tech support.

dell.com

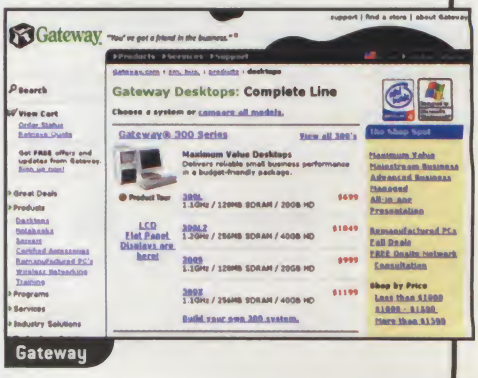
Dell Computer's electronic storefront has always led the way in ease of use. The site is jam-packed with detailed information that makes it a snap to match a machine to your needs. Each system is configurable to the nth degree via drop-down menus, and you can get quick access to online support customized for your PC.

www.fujitsu-pc.com

Fujitsu's site focuses on portable computing, including notebook PCs and pen-based tablet computers. Each computer includes several warranty options. A trade-in program offers cash back on your old computer when you upgrade to certain models.

gateway.com

One of the biggest players in online computer sales, **Gateway** has an enormous and informative site that sells custom-built desktops and portables. Check out the Deal of the Week and "free upgrades" center.



hpshopping.com

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, scanners, and printers. The site makes repeat purchases simple for businesses and individuals.

ibm.com/products

ShopIBM sells business and home PCs, notebooks, servers, thin clients, networking equipment, and peripherals. The build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop.

idot.com

From low-cost budget models to powerful monster machines, **iDot** carries customized desktops and rackmount servers.

microexpress.net

Micro Express offers built-to-order desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a one- to four-year warranty. Business leases are available.

micronpc.com

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **MicronPC** sells computers to home-office users, larger businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States. The Factory Outlet offers refurbished and discontinued systems.

nutrend.com

Custom-configure a home or business desktop PC at **NuTrend Computer Products.** The company stocks machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

NuTrend Computer Products

www.polywell.com/onlinestore

Polywell Computers may not be a household name, but the company offers desktops, notebooks, workstations, and servers that are worth a look. You'll find massive custom-configuration options.

sagernotebook.com

Specializing in notebook computers, **Sager** offers a variety of options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. Service includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee and lifetime free tech support. Business leases are available.

shopprostar.com

Each computer in **ProStar Computer's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support.

shoptoshiba.com

The Web home for **Toshiba's** stylish portables and desktop systems doesn't offer as many build-to-order options as some other sites, but it's loaded with plenty of extended-warranty and lease options.

sonystyle.com/vaio

SonyStyle is a sleek-looking site selling Sony's line of VAIO desktops and notebooks, plus digital cameras, displays, and storage devices.

unitedmicro.com

Take home a preconfigured Intel- or AMD-based PC, or start with a bare-bones system and let **United Micro** install the components of your choice.

winbook.com

Focusing exclusively on portables, **WinBook Computer** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support. Ironically, some of the site's best deals, the daily "Web specials," can only be ordered by phone.

<PC Resources

bizrate.com

BizRate.com shares customers' opinions of thousands of online sellers, including prices and on-time-delivery stats. Click to the Special Offers section for rebates, discounts, and free-shipping deals at hundreds of merchants.

consumerreview.com

ConsumerReview.com helps consumers research products before they buy. The site provides more than 200,000 reviews and ratings for tech gadgets and products for the home, car, and kids.

dcresource.com

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers can glean necessary info from the FAQ page, buyer's guide, message boards, and reviews.

gomez.com

Gómez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in 30 categories, ranging from Web-based computer stores to drugstores, apparel vendors to online brokers. Check the ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

lowendpc.com

Stretch the lifespan of that old computer. **Low End PC** focuses on budget computing tips, including running free operating systems and piecing together an inexpensive PC from parts. Sister site **Low End Mac** will help keep your older Mac ticking, too.

motherboards.org

Motherboards.org is packed with motherboard news, reviews, specifications, and tips. Its comprehensive database of 1,400 products includes driver information, technical details, and overclocking hints.

SITE REVIEWS

nextag.com

NexTag is a sophisticated buying service that can help frugal shoppers find the lowest possible prices on computer equipment, electronics, books, music, and videos. Entering your ZIP code allows NexTag to calculate shipping and tax for accurate pricing.

pdastreet.com

No matter which PDA you use, there's something for you at **PDAStreet.com.** This multifaceted site delivers reviews, software downloads, user tips, and classified ads for Windows CE, Palm, Visor, Psion, and RIM users.

resellerratings.com

Want a second opinion before you share your credit-card number with an unfamiliar online merchant? Check **ResellerRatings.com,** which provides customer evaluations of 2,200 online hardware vendors.

<Software Sites

buypcsoft.com

Buypcsoft.com offers software for Windows PCs in categories from business management to voice recognition. It's an efficient site with a good selection and high ratings among previous and current customers.

chumbo.com

Chumbo.com's selection of PC software includes games, business software, kids' programs, and operating systems. You'll also find software for your TV—that is, a good selection of DVD movies.

compuexpert.com

If you crave games for your Mac or PC, stop by **Compuexpert.com.** The categories include racing simulations, sports games, strategy games, and adventure titles. Colorful descriptions and screenshots are given for most titles.

Compuexpert.com

SITE REVIEWS

cws.internet.com

Stroud's Consummate Winsock Applications List is the ultimate one-stop download site for Internet software, including Web-development tools, browsers, and chat clients. You'll find comprehensive file lists, ratings, and extensive reviews. A free newsletter provides summaries of new software releases.

download.cnet.com

CNET Download.com will help you find shareware and free software, linking to thousands of PC, Mac, Linux, and PDA titles. Well-written newsletters and down-to-earth reviews help you to locate the perfect program. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

dragon.ca

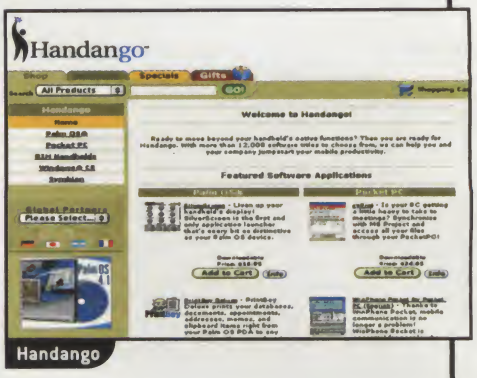
Next time you get an itchy trigger finger, visit **The Dragon's Den.** The site sells a gaggle of games for the PC and video-game consoles. Although the games are in Canada, prices are available in both U.S. and Canadian dollars, and shipping is reasonable.

ebgames.com

EBgames.com is a game-player's paradise, selling new and preowned titles for PCs and every game console under the sun. The site's new EB1 service lets users with broadband Internet access rent PC games online.

handango.com

Handango offers thousands of commercial software downloads for Palm OS, Pocket PC, Windows CE, and RIM handhelds. Newbies can start with the site's tutorials and recommendations for first-time buyers.



Handango

jumbo.com

Jumbo is a fitting name for this monstrous file archive, featuring programs for sale, demos, shareware, and freeware. Jumbo Guides offer articles on backing up, sharing MP3s, and other computing topics.

www.tucows.com

It's not just bovine bliss: **Tucows** is also an incredible archive of freeware and shareware. Plenty of local mirror sites keep downloads speedy. The category list and reviews make finding the software you seek a breeze.

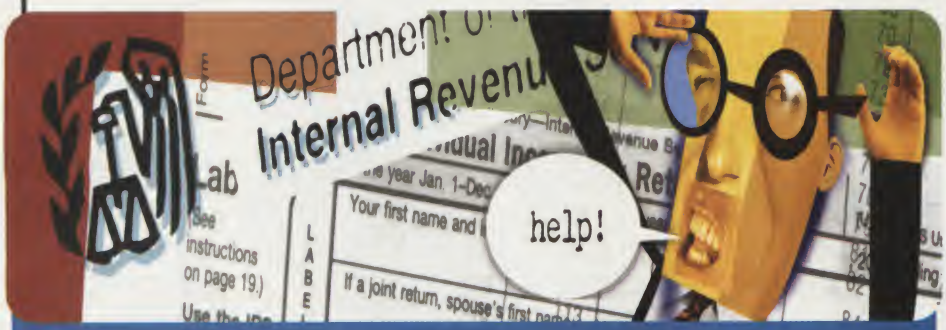
wiredlounge.com

Here's a site hard-core gamers will want to plug in to. **WiredLounge.com** serves up oodles of recently released games. The site is packed with refreshingly honest reviews, plus plenty of screenshots to leave you wanting more.

zdnet.com/downloads

You'll need more bandwidth. Download shareware, freeware, and demos from **ZDNet Downloads.** The site offers daily software highlights and quick links to the week's most popular software. Every program is rated, reviewed, and checked for viruses, so your new software won't come with any unpleasant surprises. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) ▼

ZDNet Downloads



Tax Resources

www.irs.gov

The Digital Daily, the IRS Web site, goes out of its way to be friendly and accessible. In fact, it's so friendly that it sometimes borders on patronizing. Still, you'll find truly helpful info, including downloadable tax forms, answers to frequently asked tax questions, and tax regulations in plain English.

kiplinger.com/managing/taxes

The tax department at **Kiplinger.com** features tips and articles from financial gurus. Learn how to hire a tax pro and whether online filing is right for you. The Q&A forums and Rebate-O-Meter can answer other taxing questions. You can also buy tax software to file from your PC.

paycheckcity.com

Paycheck City provides Web-based calculators to verify the accuracy of payroll checks. Employers can use the site to complete W-4 forms, and employees can verify what they should be paying in federal, state, and Social Security taxes. Other tools include an hourly wage calculator, a bonus calculator, and a stock-option calculator.

quicken.com/taxes

Quicken.com Taxes is an informative site for taxpayers any time of year. Features include a list of changes to the 2001 tax law and a series that explains the 1040. You'll also find a tax calendar and a bevy of online calculators.

taxprophet.com

Maintained by a California tax attorney, **The Tax Prophet** offers in-depth tax tutorials on complex tax topics. You'll also find information about tax scams and estate planning, as well as hints for foreign taxpayers.

taxsites.com

The **Tax and Accounting Sites Directory** offers myriad links to help you find the tax info you need. The detailed index will take you to pages around the Web that cover the topics that you need—even esoteric subjects like adoption deductions and taxes for clergy.